

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 EB-03 AID-10 OMB-01 GAC-01 PM-03

DODE-00 RSR-01 PRS-01 /070 W  
----- 027551

P R 120927 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASDC 465

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2210

LIMDIS

FOR ST. LAWRENCE FROM SWANK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA, ETRD, XC, CB

SUBJ: RED: VISIT OF SEATAC INVESTMENT TEAM TO CAMBODIA

1. BELIEVE FROM SOHLIN' S REPORT OF HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH YOU THAT YOU MAY BE UNDER SOME MISAPPREHENSION WITH RESPECT TO OUR POSITION ON THE PROPOSED SEATAC VISIT APRIL 5-6.

2. WE HAVE REGARDED IT AS INOPPORTUNE SIMPLY BECAUSE THIS COUNTRY, UNLIKE THE RVN AND LAOS WHERE A CEASE- FIRE HAS AT LEAST BEEN NEGOTIATED ( IF NOT FULLY OBSERVED) AND POLITICAL TALKS ARE UNDERWAY, FACES THE PROSPECT OF CONTINUING HOSTILITIES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD, PERHAPS EVEN A YEAR OR MORE. TALKS CONCERNING A CEASE- FIRE AND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT ARE NEITHER UNDERWAY NOR ANTICIPATED SOON. THERE IS INADEQUATE SECURITY, IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IMPORTANT LOC' S SUCH AS THE MEKONG ARE KEPT OPEN ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY, AND OUR ECONOMIC PREOCCUPATION WILL TURN FOR SOME TIME ON THE SURVIVAL OF THE GKR RATHER THAN ON CAMBODIA' S ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. THE CLIMATE FOR  
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AMERICAN PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS THEREFORE PRESENTLY  
VERY UNFAVORABLE AND MAY CONTINUE TO BE UNFAVORABLE FOR  
SOME TIME.

3. IF AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE SEATAC GROUP CONTINUES  
TO BELIEVE THAT ITS VISIT WILL BE USEFUL FOR THE PERSONAL  
ORIENTATION OF ITS MEMBERS, WE WILL OF COURSE WELCOME THEM;  
AND IT SEEMS TO US THAT MATTERS MAY HAVE ALREADY  
PROCEEDED SO FAR WITH THE KHMER THAT A CANCELLATION OF  
THE VISIT WOULD BE A REBUFF TO THEM. I NEVERTHELESS  
BELIEVE THE GROUP SHOULD COME WITH THE MODEST EXPECTATIONS  
WHICH THE SECURITY SITUATION AND NEAR- TERM PROSPECTS OF  
THE COUNTRY DICTATE.

4. IF THE GROUP COMES, WE WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE  
THE VISIT INSTRUCTIVE, INCLUDING A MISSION BRIEFING WHICH  
WE WOULD HOPE TO ARRANGE IN CONNECTION WITH A LATE  
AFTERNOON RECEPTION ON APRIL 5. THE HOTEL PHNOM HAS  
RECENTLY BEEN PLAGUED AS HAS THE WHOLE CITY BY ELECTRICITY AND  
WATER SHORTAGES, BUT THE KHMER WILL DOUBTLESS PUT THEIR BEST  
FOOT FORWARD IN THE WAYS YOU PERSONALLY RECALL FROM THE SEAMEO  
CONFERENCE. FIGHTING CONTINUES WITHIN A 15- KILOMETER RADIUS  
OF PHNOM PENH, BUT THIS IS PRETTY MUCH A STANDARD SITUATION  
AND NOT CAUSE FOR ALARM.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR PASSING THE COMMENTS IN  
PARAS 2, 3 AND 4 TO MR. BIRD, TOGETHER WITH YOUR OWN  
OBSERVATIONS. MEANWHILE, WE ARE OPERATING ON THE

ASSUMPTION THE VISIT WILL TAKE PLACE.

6. PLEASE ADVISE US OF MR. BIRD'S REACTION.  
SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* LIMDIS  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic DecapTIONing:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 12 MAR 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**DecapTION Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730324/aaaahjxp.tel  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971117  
**Subject:** RED: VISIT OF SEATAC INVESTMENT TEAM TO CAMBODIA  
**TAGS:** BTRA, ETRD, CB, XC  
**To:** BANGKOK  
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